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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

SUBJECT Soviet Weapons at Volkspolizei Gun Repair Shop

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1. The gun repair shop for the Volkspolizei at Strausberg delivered three 20 mm four-barreled antiaircraft guns and two 150 mm field howitzers to the Francke Volkspolizei unit at Frankenberg on 17 Sep 53. Both types are Soviet designs and came in separate parts from Prenzlau, where there is a Soviet gun and parts depot that supplies heavy weapons to the Volkspolizei.
2. The Rosenhain Volkspolizei unit delivered twelve 88 mm guns to Strausberg and received in return the same number of modern 105 mm guns. These guns are also of Soviet make and were designed for installation in T-34 tanks.
3. About 600 Volkspolizei are at present employed at Strausberg, carrying out repair, overhauling and mounting work. On hand and awaiting delivery at present are only some 37 mm antitank guns without tires. Only Polish ammunition is used in testing the guns. More guns of this type are at present being brought by trucks from Prenzlau. These 37 mm AA guns apparently are being discontinued by the Soviet troops. Report says that they are being replaced by automatic guns, some of which have been seen by members of the Volkspolizei with the Soviet troops at Zepernick. There are also four 55 mm guns at Strausberg awaiting delivery.
4. The Strausberg repair shop serves primarily Volkspolizei units in the Brandenburg area. Repairs are currently being made for the following units in Brandenburg: artillery unit at Potsdam, artillery unit at Potsdam-Eiche, artillery unit at Treuenbrietzen, infantry unit at Pinnow, armored unit at Pinnow, artillery school at Glöwen, and infantry unit at Berlin-Treptow.
5. During the past 14 days, 20 mm three-barreled antiaircraft guns have been delivered to units at Rathenow, Brandenburg and Neuruppin. Among them were 26 guns from Czechoslovakia. A 210 mm heavy gun has been repaired for the Volkspolizei unit at Frankenberg. A 76.2 mm self-propelled carriage was mounted for Hohen Neuendorf, near Berlin. Guns of German make apparently were taken back, which had been used only for training purposes.

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